

****** VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE ******

[00013] Another known compression device for a mammography system is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,851,180 to Crosby et al., December 22, 1998. This patent discloses an apparatus having first and second compression surfaces that experience a lateral translation as they move towards one another. In addition, the first and second compression surfaces may be tilted slightly relative to a plane orthogonal to the patient's chest wall to enhance the traction effect on the breast.

[00028] Figure 2 shows a top view of the paddle **12**. The paddle **12** is connected to frame **14**. Referring back to Figure 1, the frame **14** is also vertically adjustable relative to guide **24** to selectively adjust the vertical position of the paddle **12** relative to the support plate **16**. This way a breast ~~**34**~~ **36** as shown in Figure 3 may be compressed intermediate the paddle **12** and the support plate **16**.

[00032] As can be seen, the second compression surface **28** is angled at about a 4° down angle relative to a perpendicular through lip **32**. The third ~~contact~~ compression surface is at about 6° downward angle relative to the perpendicular taken through the lip **32**. Slots **21,23** in the paddle **12** allow for linear horizontal movement of the paddle **12** relative to frame **14**. This provides for optimal alignment of the paddle **12** relative to the image detector and breast support plate **16** with a properly located compressed breast, intermediate the two. In the preferred embodiment, about 3/8 inch linear adjustment is provided through the use of slots **21,23** relative to pins **18,20**.

[00036] Figure 3 shows the preferred embodiment of the compression system **10** in operation. The slight downward angle of the first compression surface **26** is believed to adequately compress the breast **34 36** at the chest end **34 38** of the breast **34 36** without any significant backward displacement of breast tissue. This slight angle is relative to a horizontal plane extending through first compression surface **26**.